

Christianity nor Tunkerism should be charged with that which was committed by imposters and hypocrites. I sincerely hope he will be able to see the force of this criticism.

H. R. H.

Berlin, Feb. 25.

Nicklow, W. Va.

February 12, 1898, we began a series of meetings at Thornton, W. Va., closed the 21; no accessions yet. Good interest, and the best of prospects for a Brethren church there. We ask an interest in the prayers of all God's children for our success in the glorious cause of Christianity. Our little band of soldiers here is getting along nicely, and we have brother C. E. Glenn's promise to come over and preach for us in the near future. Yours in service for Christ.

S. B. BALL.

## Items of Interest

—Krupp uses 1,000,000 tons of steel annually.

—In Australian markets rabbits sell at 6 cents apiece.

—A horse will live 25 days without food, merely drinking water.

—There are 9,000,000 acres of original forests in West Virginia.

—German locomotive engineers receive a gold medal and \$500. for every ten years of service without accident.

—The longest canal in the world is in Russia. It extends from St. Petersburg to the frontier of China, and measures nearly 4,500 miles.

—By a curious coincidence the number of lives lost at sea during 1897 in British merchant ships is returned as exactly 1,897.

—The largest room in the world under one roof and unbroken by pillars is at St. Petersburg. It is 620 feet long by 120 feet in depth.

—The greatest length of the greater New York is from Riverdale, south of the Yonkers boundary line, to Tottenville, Staten Island, a distance of thirty-seven miles.

—A jury in the Supreme Court in Brooklyn, N. Y., has given a woman in that city a verdict of \$5,000 in her suit against a druggist for the loss of her husband, who was killed by a dose of oxalic acid put up by mistake in the druggist's store for Epsom salts.

—Blind Tom, the weak-witted, sightless negro whose phenomenal gift as a pianist and whose unnatural powers of memory and mimicry were the wonders of the world some years ago, is now a gray-headed, infirm old man, living in retirement in a little cottage on the highlands of the Navesink, on the New Jersey shore of New York Bay, in charge of Mrs. Eliza Lerche, who was appointed his guardian several years ago. After the death of her first husband, John G. Bethune, who was Tom's manager nearly the entire time he was before the public, there was a long legal struggle between her and her father-in-law, James N. Bethune, who owned Tom and Tom's mother as slaves, and still claimed the sole proprietorship of the musician. Tom had been a valuable piece of property, and had brought him a large income for many years. It is said that he earned several hundred thousands of dollars, and Colonel Bethune naturally objected to losing so lucrative an investment.

Justice Andrews, of the Supreme Court of New York, to whom the case finally came by appeal, decided that Tom was a free man, and permitted him to choose his own guardian, for, although over fifty years old, he was incapable of caring for himself,

and Charity Wiggins, his mother, who still lived in Georgia on the old plantation where Tom was born, declined to accept the responsibility. In fact, Tom did not know his mother. He met her at the trial for the first time since his childhood, nearly forty years before, when his musical genius was discovered, and he was taken out for exhibition by his owner. Nor did he have sufficient intelligence to appreciate the relationship; and she, an illiterate negress over seventy, was frightened by his outlandish gibberish and peculiar habits, for when he is away from the piano Blind Tom is a most repulsive animal. He has an abnormal appetite, his passions are strongly developed, and he has no respect for persons or places. He is simply an idiot, and his mother believed him to be possessed of the devil. With the instincts of a child, however, when Tom was made to understand that he must select the person who should care for him, he naturally clung to the lady who had cared for him most of his life, and the court recognized Mrs. Bethune as the natural and proper guardian. Shortly after, she married Mr. Lersche, who had been her attorney in the litigation, and her circumstances are such that it is not necessary for Tom to return to the stage. She prefers to support him in idleness, and has him comfortably placed in a cottage under the charge of a negro attendant, who seldom allows him out of his sight.

It is not probable that Tom will ever appear in public again. Although his peculiar faculties are retained, his health is feeble, and his mind has weakened with age. He spends most of his time at the piano, playing his old pieces and practicing new ones, which he picks up as readily as he did years ago.—*Chicago Record*.

## Literary Notes

At last the important news comes that the great literary work contributed to by the Rt. Hon. William E. Gladstone and his seventeen scholarly conferees has been placed by the publisher on the general book market and is now within the easy reach of everyone in this community. We refer to the People's Bible History. It is well worth while looking this over just to see the great names in all denominations of faith who have been laboring in this notable undertaking and to realize the comprehensive way in which they have carried out the plan of producing a thoroughly complete and modern presentation of the Bible in its historical aspects. Whether judged from the literary or typographical point of view, it may very properly be called the most monumental production from the press in recent years. Its value to the reading public is certainly only equaled by the encyclopedias and other great works of reference. There is no book that we know of that has received such general and unqualified approval from the clergy and the press. As the publisher provides the work in so many editions there ought to be no trouble about being suited either as to bindings or payments. Two editions are offered at popular prices, as well as

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two in a more sumptuous style to suit the more fastidious book-lovers. The most acceptable style for the great majority, however, will undoubtedly be the quarto edition in sixteen parts, bound in stiff paper covers and convenient for easy handling. This is issued especially to bring the work within reach of all classes. As everyone who pretends to have any kind of a good private library, no matter how small, must have the People's Bible History on his shelves, our booksellers will doubtless find a ready sale for it among the thinking people of our midst.

Edward Bok, the famous young editor of *The Ladies' Home Journal*, has finally been persuaded to appear on the lecture platform, and he will make his debut as a lecturer in the South next October. He will lecture in twenty of the principal cities and in a few of the neighboring Western States. The title of his lecture will be "The Keys to Success"—the most interesting subject he could have chosen to talk about. Mr. Bok is, perhaps the most successful and popular young man in America. Women read him as they do no other writer, and it may be confidently said that around the personality of no other man in America is there a greater interest and curiosity on the part of thousands of women than centres on this successful editor. The women will not be disappointed in him, as, in looks and manners, Mr. Bok possesses all the qualities which they like. He is as popular personally with women as are his writings. Up to this time he has declined the most flattering terms to lecture, but last week the Southern Lyceum Bureau, of Louisville, succeeded in closing a contract with the Philadelphia editor. Mr. Bok has chosen the Southern field entirely because he wishes to acquaint himself with the South and its people, and has stipulated that this lecturing tour shall be so arranged as to allow him time for social engagements and observation. He will not speak more than three times each week, and will spend seven weeks in the South.

### ONE OF TWO WAYS

The bladder was created for one purpose, namely, a receptacle for the urine, and as such it is not liable to any form of disease except by one of two ways. The first way is from imperfect action of the kidneys. The second way is from careless local treatment of other diseases.

### CHIEF CAUSE

Unhealthy urine from unhealthy kidneys is the chief cause of bladder troubles. So the womb, like the bladder, was created for one purpose, and if not doctored too much is not liable to weakness or disease, except in rare cases. It is situated back of and very close to the bladder, therefore any pain, disease or inconvenience manifested in the kidneys, back, bladder or urinary passage is often by mistake, attributed to female weakness or womb trouble of some sort. The error is easily made and may be as easily avoided. To find out correctly, set your urine aside for twenty-four hours; a sediment or settling indicates kidney or bladder trouble. The mild and the extraordinary effect of Dr. Kilmer's Swamp Root, the great kidney, and bladder remedy is soon realized. If you need a medicine you should have the best. At druggists fifty cents and one dollar. You may have a sample bottle and pamphlet, both sent free by mail. Mention BRETHREN EVANGELIST and send your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. The proprietors of this paper guarantee the genuineness of this offer.